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Berkeley, California

Golden Gate Audubon Society

THE GULL



BIRDING ON THE SLOPES

Had enough skiing this winter? For relief, try birding the western slopes of the Sierra Nevadas. Just in time for spring, Steve Granholm, and active member of our chapter, will prepare us for birding expeditions there with his slides and discussion, "Western Slope Sierran Birds: An Ecological Transect." In his talk Steve will focus on the birds and wildlife of this scenic area and the human impact on them as it occurs from the lowest foothills to the alpine zones, in the canyons of the lower Tuolumne River and throughout the meadows and peaks of Yosemite.

Steve is just the qualified and enthusiastic guide that we require for our trip. He earned his Ph.D. doing research on birds of Yosemite's coniferous forests and their response to fires. His project now is the mapping of wildlife habitat in Tuolumne County to formulate policies for the county's general plan. Of more practical interest to birders is Steve's useful field guide, *Discovering Sierra Birds*, published last year, a book that deals with the life history of 190 birds that live in the various ecological zones of the Sierra's western slope.

Join us for this informative program on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Berkeley at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. We look forward to seeing you on the slopes.

—TOM WHITE

THE LEGAL ACTION FUND

The response to the plea in *The GULL* for December for financial help in the Oakland Airport wetlands struggle has been overwhelming and gratifying! GGAS must be doing something right, since over 140 of our members have donated generously to the cause. In the interest of privacy we have not published a donors list, though the board would like to honor you all publicly. Thank you for your support!

There is still time to send in a contribution if you haven't done so.

Watch the papers (and the television news) in early February for the latest developments. We do not expect any movement until then, and there is nothing new to report at this writing. Wasn't the Christmas Count coverage satisfying?

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Sunday, February 1—Bay Park Refuge, Oakland. See *Gull* for January for details.

Wednesday, February 11—Mini-trip to Lafayette Reservoir. Meet at 9 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 to the Acalanes off-ramp, follow the sign on the right to the reservoir. There is a \$1 fee for day parking. We will see song and winter birds. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, February 14—Lake Merced, San Francisco. Meet at 9 a.m. at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Lake Merced Circle. This is a good time to see wintering grebes and ducks. If you take the #72 bus be sure to get off at Ocean Ave. because the next stop is Winston Dr., about one-half mile away. Lunch is optional for this half-day trip. Leader: Aileen Pierson (563-8431).

Sunday, February 15—Lake Merritt. Meet at 9 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonnade. Trip ends at noon. Bring binoculars, field guides and scope if you have them. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners. This trip is wheelchair accessible. There is a nice new restaurant at the lake for brunch after birds. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Joan Zawaski (433-1700 days, 530-2427 eve.).

Saturday, February 28—San Pablo and Briones Reservoirs. Meet at 9 a.m. at the intersection of San Pablo Dam Rd. and Bear Creek Road. From Berkeley take Wildcat Canyon Rd. to its end (the

meeting site). From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit and go left on Camino Pablo to its end (the meeting site). We will hike about one mile along a part of Oursan Trail and then caravan to Briones Reservoir. Birding will be in grasslands, pine and oak woodlands and streamside willows. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Sue and Bob Watson (254-4077). (✓)

Saturday, March 7—San Francisco Bird Blitz. Participants in last year's blitz saw over 100 species within the City limits. This year's mad dash to build up the biggest "City Day List" possible will begin at 7 a.m. sharp at the parking lot at the foot of Van Ness. From there we will caravan to other sites including Golden Gate Park, Sutro Baths, Lake Merced and Candlestick Point. Bring lunch and liquids. We will bird until dusk when we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant where for a minimal cost we can avoid going home to cook dinner. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partidge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

THE FIRST MENTION

The GGAS Spring Bird Seed Sale is scheduled for April 11 in both Berkeley and San Francisco.

DECEMBER OBSERVATIONS

November 26 through December 20

After a cool, dry early December, rain threatened several Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter CBC). In Oakland and Pt. Reyes skies cleared for the first CBC weekend, then clouded up again. Occasional rain and sun alternated with cold, low fog to provide the pattern for many of the other local counts. Full reports of Oakland and San Francisco counts will appear in *The Gull* for March but some highlights from those and other counts are included herein.

SE Farallon Island Update

Common Murres and Western Gulls began returning to SE Farallon Island in mid-November and are reorienting to their cliffs for the coming breeding season. Otherwise, life has simmered down on the Island after a sensational fall landbird migration (covered in the October and November Observations). (Thanks to Point Reyes Bird Observatory for SE Farallon Island information.)

Tubenoses through Waterfowl

Two early reports of Laysan Albatross were one seen five miles west of Moss Landing Nov. 30 (PhR), and one off Cordell Banks Dec. 2 (*fide* BiL); 10-15 off Cordell Banks Dec. 7 (SJ) was exceptional. A Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen in Monterey Bay Dec. 6 (SJ). Most Bay Area counts would be pleased to find one Brown Pelican at this time of year; the San Francisco CBC encountered 22 Dec. 29 (*fide* DPM).

Cattle Egrets were reported in moderate numbers—27 individuals from 13 locations—from Sonoma to Santa Cruz Counties throughout December (mob). Twenty Tundra Swans occurred coastally in four locations (MLR, DSi, BWk, SCa), with the big-

gest congregation of 13 near Albany Landfill Dec. 13 (JCo). An immature blue phase of the Snow Goose turned up at the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz the week of Dec. 22-26 (BLaB, *fide* DLSu). A Brant was seen from Treasure Island on the Oakland CBC Dec. 21 (CSw), and two others flew by Tony Lema Golf Course in San Leandro Dec. 28 (BJ).

Twenty-two Eurasian Wigeons delighted those searching duck flocks coastally as well as interiorly throughout the period (mob). A female Tufted Duck was in Lower Lake at the San Francisco Zoo Dec. 19-29 (MW, HW, *fide* DPM); and a male Tufted Duck, discovered on Mallard Reservoir in Contra Costa Co. Dec. 27 (BR, JG), is a first county record. The Bolinas Lagoon Harlequin Duck remained throughout the period (mob). Other Harlequins sighted were a female in Tomales Bay Nov. 28 (DSi, DRa), one in Monterey Bay Dec. 6 (SJ), one near Pine Gulch Creek Dec. 27 (DAH), and a male off Candlestick Point Dec. 29 (ASH). An Oldsquaw was spotted from Pigeon Point Dec. 7 (RJ); another was found near Treasure Island on the Oakland CBC Dec. 21 (CSw); and a third was reported from Princeton Harbor Dec. 27 (BS, *fide* PJM).

Raptors through Alcids

An immature Bald Eagle was seen at Gray Lodge Dec. 7 (BED). An immature Broad-winged Hawk was discovered in Scott's Valley Dec. 21 (BHa, *fide* DLSu).

Twelve Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported coastally from Sonoma to San Mateo Cos. throughout the period (mob). Inland two Lesser Golden-Plovers were seen at Lodi Sewage Ponds Dec. 12 (DGY). All are believed to be of the wintering *fulva* race. Two groups of Mountain Plovers were

reported from inland locations: 45 near Arbuckle, Colusa Co. Nov. 29 (JEP), and 35 east of Butte City, Glenn Co. Dec. 7 (BED). Two Black Oystercatchers, seen from the Albany Landfill on the Oakland CBC Dec. 21 (JM), adds to five other sightings of this species in the East Bay in 1986. A Wandering Tattler at Treasure Island Dec. 21 (CSw) was a pleasant surprise for the CBC compiler. The Princeton Harbor Rock Sandpiper continued to be seen through Dec. 27 (RJ, BS, *fide* PJM).

A lingering Pomarine Jaeger was spotted from shore in Santa Cruz off Rock View Drive Dec. 19 (DLSu). A Franklin's Gull flew past Pillar Point Dec. 27 (BS, *fide* PJM). One Little Gull was seen at Lodi Sewage Ponds Nov. 29-Dec. 10, while the Stockton Sewage Ponds' Little Gull remained from Dec. 3-9 (DGY). A Glaucous Gull was found off Cordell Banks Dec. 7 (SJ); another was found on the Pt. Reyes CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* RS); and a first winter bird was at Wilder Beach in Santa Cruz Co. Dec. 21 (DLSu). A very late Caspian Tern was found at Leo Ryan Park Dec. 18 (PJM). One Xantus' Murrelet was viewed on a Monterey pelagic trip Dec. 6 (SJ).

Landbirds

Once again a **Spotted Owl** was found in the Central Valley near Merced National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters Nov. 29 (MFe). One spent February and part of March there in 1985. Two Acorn Woodpeckers were in Golden Gate Park during the San Francisco CBC Dec. 29 (GH), a new species for the San Francisco CBC. A Red-naped Sapsucker on the Livermore Mines Rd. continued to be seen through Dec. 25 (ALE). Another was found on North Butte Rd. near Gray Lodge Dec. 14 (MDa), and one was seen on Mt. Diablo Dec. 27 (JBr, *fide* GF). A

probable **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was seen and heard calling along the Carmel River Dec. 11-12 (DGe, DR). A Western Flycatcher turned up at the White House Pool for the Pt. Reyes CBC Dec. 20 (SCa), and another was reported from the Oakland CBC the next day, Dec. 21 (TCO). A Tropical Kingbird was at Wilder Beach Dec. 21-31 (EL, DLSu). The small population of Pygmy Nuthatches in the Oakland Hills allowed themselves to be counted on the Oakland CBC (DPM). A Northern Shrike at White House Pool, found on the Pt. Reyes CBC, was still present Dec. 26 (SCa, DAH).

A Solitary Vireo, plumbeous form, showed up for the Western Sonoma CBC at Bodega Bay Dec. 28 (RS). A Tennessee Warbler was in Santa Cruz Dec. 15-21 (DLSu), just arriving under the wire to make the total 16 for this fall. A Nashville Warbler continued to be seen at Pilarcitos Creek through Dec. 27 (PJM); another San Mateo Co. Nashville was seen at Frenchman's Creek Dec. 13 (PJM), and the riparian habitat near Watsonville Community Hospital contained another Dec. 26 (DGe, *fide* DLSu). Other lingering (or wintering?) western warblers included a Yellow, a Hermit, two Black-throated Gray, a MacGillivray's, and **five** Wilson's Warblers throughout the period (mob). A Prairie Warbler in Princeton, first found Dec. 6-7, was still being seen Dec. 27 (PJM, DWO), bringing the fall total to nine. Eight lingering Palm Warblers, four from Santa Cruz Co. (DLSu), were seen during the period (mob) to make a total of 58+ since Sept. 23. Five additional Black-and-White Warblers during the period bring the fall total to 13. Four near the coast are not unusual, but one at the Science Center in Sacramento Dec. 3 was interesting (SFB). A Northern

Waterthrush was near the Watsonville Community Hospital Dec. 23 (DLSu).

A Summer Tanager also visited Watsonville Community Hospital grounds Dec. 29 (DGe, *fide* DLSu), and a Western Tanager, almost as rare in winter, was found in Stern Grove Park Dec. 29 (WK). An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at San Bruno Mtn. County Park Dec. 7 (JMcC); another male was at Half Moon Bay Dec. 27 (PJM).

Several Sharp-tailed Sparrows and nine Swamp Sparrows continued to be seen in their favorite marshes from Marin to Santa Cruz Co. through the period (mob). Nine White-throated Sparrows were noted this month, and that represents only incomplete information from the local CBCs (mob). A **Snow Bunting**, probably female, put in a very brief appearance at Bodega Head Nov. 29 (JCo). The only Evening Grosbeaks for this report period were five at Corte Madera Creek Dec. 1 (BiL).

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Murry Berner, Joe Bruyles (JBr), Scott Carey (SCa), Tom Castro, Terry Coddington (TCo), John Comstock (JCo), Tom Condit, Maryann Danielson (MDa), Bruce E. Deuel, Art L. Edwards, Carter L. Faust, Gary Fellers, Marc Fenner (MFe), George Finger, Douglas George (DGe), Philip E. Gordon, Jeff Greenhouse, Bob Hargis (BHa), Rob Hayden, Melanie Hirsch, David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Mark Humrighausen, Bob Jarrell, Richard Jeffers, Dick Johnson, Andy Kratter, Bruce LaBar, Earl Lebow, Bill Lenarz (BiL), Donna Lion, Bruce Maxwell, John McCormick (JMcC), Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Daniel P. Murphy, Mark Oberly, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, Steve Perry, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon Report

thanks to Phil Henderson and Stephanie Kaza), Lina J. Prairie, Deborah Rames (DRa), David Rice, Bob Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Phil Rostron (PhR), Barry Saupe, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, David L. Suddjian, Chris Swarth (CSw), Margaret Tenney, Bruce Walker (BWk), David Wharton, Harry White Mike Wihler, Katherine S. Wilson, Dennis Wolff (DWo), Woody Kuehn, David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288.

—HELEN A. GREEN

Observations Editor

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Berkeley, CA 94707

CONSERVATION NOTES

Desert Protection

The last significant expanse of untouched wilderness in the continental U.S. is right here in California and you can help save it. Our California desert is unique—and threatened. Congress has called for protection and conservation of the area's resources, but instead the BLM has opened the potential wilderness to mining and off-road vehicle use impairing its value before Congress has a chance to consider the merits for designation.

Senator Alan Cranston introduced the California Desert Protection Act to expand existing parks and monuments and elevate them to national park status. The plan should be supported by writing to Senator Cranston and the California Desert Protection League, an organization newly formed to help control the pro-development forces fighting protection. Send words of support to: Senator Alan Cranston, Senate Office Bldg,

Washington, D.C. 20510, or Senator Pete Wilson (same address), or Your Representative, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. The Desert Protection League can be reached at 2410 Beverly Blvd., #2, Los Angeles, CA 90057.

The California Rivers

In the first day of the new Congressional session separate bills were introduced to place the Kings, Merced and Kern Rivers in the National Wild and Scenic River System. A spokesman for the Friends of the River said, "This has been an extraordinary day... California's Congressional delegation clearly understands just how important free-flowing rivers are to the people of this state."

The Kings River was proposed for protection by Congressman Richard Lehman (D-Sanger), who introduced legislation identical to his bill of last year which had a staggering 76 co-sponsors in the House. The Kings River is considered by many to be the most threatened river in the country; 11 miles of canyon would be destroyed by the proposed Rogers Crossing Dam.

Congressman Tony Coelho (D-Merced) introduced a bill in the House to make a portion of the Merced River and its South Fork part of National Wild and Scenic Rivers. Both rivers begin in Yosemite Park. A bill introduced by Senator Pete Wilson (R) goes further than Coelho's bill by protecting an additional eight miles of the most pristine part of the main Merced River, a proposal with full support from the environmental community. If passed, either bill would prevent construction of the El Portal Hydroelectric Project, a proposal that would dramatically diminish the flow of the Merced River along Hwy. 140 as it leaves Yosemite National Park.

Also on the first day California's senior Senator, Alan Cranston (D), introduced a bill to protect sections of the North and South forks of the Kern River above the Isabella Reservoir. The Kern, which flows from the slopes of Mount Whitney down through Bakersfield, is renowned for its recreational diversity and is home of the Golden Trout.

THE BACKYARD BIRDER

The column will be resumed in *The GULL* for March. Meg Pauletich is taking a breather.

BATS AND THEIR CONSERVATION

Bats are among the world's most fascinating animals. Using ultrasonic signals for navigation and communication, they have mastered the night skies just as dolphins have mastered the seas. Nearly a thousand species of bats comprise approximately one quarter of all mammal species. Because bats are secretive and active only at night, they are often misunderstood, feared and needlessly killed. Contrary to common myths, bats are neither blind nor dirty. They do not get in peoples' hair or infest houses with bedbugs. Like other mammals, a few (less than half of one percent) contract rabies. But even those bats rarely become aggressive or transmit the disease to other animals. When a person is endangered, it is usually when he foolishly picks up a sick bat that bites in self defense. Records show that even pet dogs are more dangerous.

Most bats are harmless and highly beneficial, but their numbers are declining rapidly. Several species have become extinct, others might soon be extinct if misconceptions are not corrected.

Fruit-eating bats are nature's most

important seed dispersing mammals. Nectar-eating bats, along with some fruit-eating bats that visit flowers, pollinate thousands of bat dependent tropical and subtropical trees and shrubs. Many plants of economic importance continue to depend on bats. The nearly endless list of valuable fruits, nuts and spices from bat dependent plants include peaches, bananas, mangos, guavas, avocados, dates, figs, cashews, carob and cloves. Other commodities include fibers for surgical bandages, life preservers and rope, and lumber.

Because bats use ultrasonic navigation, are exceptionally long-lived and disease resistant, they are increasingly important for research. They have contributed, for example, to development of navigational aids for the blind, vaccine development, drug testing, studies of aging, artificial insemination and speech pathology.

Bat guano is an important source of fertilizer, and continues to be a major source in developing countries, where it is used in producing a number of crops, for example about a third of the world's supply of black and white peppers.

Bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects. One Gray Bat (an endangered species) may eat up to 3,000 or more insects, including mosquitos, in a single night. Large bat colonies consume countless billions. In Texas, the Bracken Cave colony of Free-tailed Bats, about twenty million in number, eats up to a quarter of a million pounds of insects nightly.

Threats to survival come from extermination efforts, human disturbance, pesticide poisoning, and habitat loss. Exaggerated reports in news stories often lead to dangerous responses minor or nonexistent problems. Millions of bats have been killed by people who explore caves, some intentionally, others who are unaware of the damage they do. Each

human entry into a winter hibernating cave causes bats to arouse and thereby lose ten to thirty days of stored fat reserve. Bats must conserve their limited fat supplies until spring or face starvation. In summer, flightless young may be dropped or abandoned when humans disturb nursery roosts. The relatively few caves that shelter bats seldom are used year-round. Warm summer nursery caves should not be explored from April through October. Colder hibernation caves should be avoided from late August through mid-May.

In the early sixties an estimated 150 million Free-tailed Bats fed over farms of southwestern states and Mexico. They caught approximately a quarter million metric tons of insects annually. Since then, populations of these bats have declined drastically, some by as much as 99%. Most apparently died from eating insects contaminated by overuse of agricultural pesticides. Voracious appetites and slow reproduction rate (usually only one young per year) make bats everywhere extremely vulnerable.

The reasonable solution to occasional bat wanderers in human living quarters is to cover chimneys and vents with hardware cloth screens, to install draft guards beneath doors, and to seal other access holes. Large colonies of bats in attics or walls can, of course, become a nuisance and require eviction. In this instance careful observation must be made at dusk to discover bat entry holes. These can be plugged while the bats are out feeding or during their winter absence. Poisons used against "house bats" are costly, ineffective and often create problems worse than those they were to correct.

Endangered species include the Gray Bat, Big-eared Bat and Indiana Bat, and they are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Conservation efforts are coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service. Population trends are monitored, critical habitat is protected, caves are posted with signs indicating when exploration may be done without disturbing bats, and cooperation of landowners, cavers and the public is encouraged. Many bat populations are showing signs of a comeback; public support is vital to continued success.

SAN FRANCISCO GREAT OUTDOORS ADVENTURE FAIR—BROOKS HALL

GGAS will have a booth at the fair. What we need is for a number of friendly GGAS volunteers to take responsibility for being there to tell people about Audubon and what we are doing for the environment and its inhabitants. Volunteers are admitted free. Please call Barbara Rivenes at the GGAS office.

The fair is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27 through March 1.

GGAS LOSSES

Two stalwart members of the GGAS board of directors have left the Bay Area and GGAS. First vice president **Chris Swarth**, who also served as co-compiler for the 1986 Oakland Christmas Count, has taught GGAS sponsoring birding classes, and was on the staff in Biology at Diablo Valley College, has moved to Washington, D.C. with a wife only recently acquired. (Congratulation and farewell!!) **Ross Jennings**, recently treasurer and more recently director at large, completed work for a doctorate in economics and accounting at UCB and has accepted a teaching appointment at the University of Texas at Austin. (Congratulations and farewell!!)

Both will be missed by their colleagues on the board.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You can give a few dollars to the *Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Program* by filling in **Line 90** on your California tax form. Your donation—deductible on state and federal itemized returns—will be used for wildlife/habitat preservation throughout California. It's a good program. Please help if you can.



WANTED: A FEW GOOD BIRDERS

Jared Verner of the Forest Sciences Laboratory, 2081 E. Sierra Ave., Fresno, CA 93710, (209) 487-5588, is the person to get in touch with if you are interested in paid birding experience (\$6.90/hr., GS-5).

You must be expert at identifying oak-woodland and/or mixed conifer bird species, particularly by sound. There will be a two-week training period for each of the studies to brush up on bird songs and calls and to learn the methods.

Mid-March to early May:

Point counts of birds in oak-woodland foothills at the San Joaquin Experimental Range just north of Fresno.

First week of May to early August:

Spot-mapping bird territories on two 42-ha grids in mixed conifer stands in the Sierra Nevada east of Fresno.

Color banding several bird species and mapping their locations at one of the Sierra study areas.

To apply, submit resume and two references (with day-time telephone numbers).

EAST BAY PARKS STUDENT AIDES SOUGHT

College students interested in part time and summer work as Interpretive Aides (\$5.56 per hour) may file applications with the EBRPD personnel office (531-9300). Three semesters units of college level natural science, cultural history, or other relevant course work, ability to communicate well with park visitors, and a valid California drivers license are minimum requirements. This is a two year training position under supervision of the ranger staff. Twelve positions are expected in 1987, they are in places like the Nature Area or Botanic Garden in Tilden, Crab Cove in Alameda, Coyote Hills in Fremont, etc. The job is part time during the school year and full time during summers. It is good experience for students preparing for careers as naturalists or environmental educators.

THE SANDERLING PROJECT

A special plea has come from the Sanderling Project for reports of sightings of banded Sanderlings seen on your beach walks. The transplant experiment, described in a recent issue, increases the chance of seeing a marked bird. For example, two days after being released in Bodega Bay two transplanted birds appeared 60 kilometers north at Sea Ranch. These birds are on the move so watch for bands. To date 39 Bodega transplants have been seen, many wandering north or south. Observers have reported fifteen Morro Bay transplants, but only three San Diego birds have been seen. Where are they?

HUMMINGBIRDS

The UC Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science will present a lecture and slide-show by photographer Robert Tyrrell and Esther Tyrrell, authors of *Hummingbirds: Their Life and Behavior*. The talk will cover flight, feather structure, behavior, courtship and nesting, territorial aggression and wildflower pollination. Accompanying the talk will be rare high-speed photographs of hummingbirds whose rapid wingbeats make them difficult to photograph.

The Lawrence Hall of Science is on Centennial Drive, below Grizzly Peak. The show will be presented twice, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 8. Jointly sponsored by Golden Gate, Marin and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies, there will be a reception following the Sunday afternoon show. There will be refreshments and the Tyrrells will be available to autograph copies of their book.

Admission is \$3 for museum members and \$4 for the public. Advance tickets may be obtained by calling Barbara Ando, (415) 642-2858.

STATE OF THE BAY A Conference

The SF Bay Chapter of the Oceanic Society announces its third State of the Bay Conference. To be held Saturday, March 7 at Golden Gate University in San Francisco from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$25 and includes lunch. Congressman George Miller, Harold Gilliam and others are on the program.



AVAILABLE BY MAIL

A beautiful, four color Save Wetlands auto shade in a design by watercolorist Linda Patterson of Newark and a fundraiser for the Committee to complete the Refuge, may be purchased for six dollars (tax and mailing included). Send your check to Save Wetlands Autosshades, 1056 Forest Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Your purchase will help the workers in the trenches to put these priceless lands into public ownership in the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge.

THE COOPER SOCIETY

The speaker at the next meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be David F. Whitacre of UC Davis. He will present a seminar on his studies of the cave-dwelling swifts of Mexico.

The meeting will be at UC Berkeley, Life Sciences Bldg., Room 2503, Monday, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. preceded by a business session at 7:45. Everyone interested in birds is invited.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of

Lynda & Bill Bracey's
Martha

Gift of

Mrs. Ava Jean Pickel
Betty B. & William C. Webster

Susan & Bill Brusher

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, (415) 383-1644
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature
Education Under Joint Sponsorship of Golden Gate,
Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Rick Baird, Chairman

At the close of 1986 ACR received three sizable donations to further its work. The L.J. and Mary Skaggs Foundation granted funds to support environmental education programs at the Bouverie Preserve. A bequest from the estate of Ivan Barker was given to the ranch in memory of Mr. Barker's aunt, Josephine Hill who, he wrote, "taught me to love the birds." This gift, like all unspecified bequests, has been placed in the ranch's endowment to provide a continuing source of income for the future. The Madrone Audubon Society donated the proceeds of its Nature Center Fund in memory of Tom Olds. Mr. Olds was a founding member of Madrone Audubon and a constant contributor to the Nature Center Fund through the sale of his hand carved bird pins. The money will be used to outfit the laboratory in Gilman Hall at the Bouverie Preserve, including the purchase of microscopes, binoculars, a cabinet for bird study skins and other field study equipment.

This month Bouverie Preserve will graduate 24 new docents in its fifth training class. This will bring to 60 the number of active docents for the spring.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 28 is the annual free lunch and work day at the Bolinas Preserve. Beginning at 9 a.m. volunteers will get the ranch spruced up for Opening Day, March 1. If you plan to help out please call the ranch at (415) 383-1644, so there will be a place at the table for you.

April 4-5 will be a very special weekend at the Bolinas Preserve with watercolorist, Nell Milcher, who is well

known in Marin and Sonoma counties for her posters, postcards and wine labels. If you like to paint or love flowers you won't want to miss "Watercolor Wild Flowers."

On Sunday, April 5 at the Bouverie Preserve "Moon Spring, a Banquet for the Senses", a hike to the Mayacamas mountains and the Stewart Creek waterfall will be conducted by Phyllis Ellrnan and Jon Peterson.

To reserve a spot at either even please call (415) 383-1644.

And don't forget Bouverie's Community Hike Days—the last Saturday of every month. They include February 28, March 28, April 25 and May 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations must be made by the Wednesday prior to each hike by calling (707) 938-4554. These hikes fill up quickly so call now.



LATE BREAKING NEWS

We have just learned that the National Audubon Society will be receiving a grant from the **Irvine Foundation** for the purposes of acquiring additional Central Valley wetland areas! The gift of \$500,000 will be in the form of a challenge grant where the foundation will match dollar for dollar money raised independently by National Audubon for habitat acquisition in the area. Many thanks to the Irvine Foundation for this generous donation.

— SECOND CLASS MATTER



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THE GULL

GGAS ROSTER OF OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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